

6

LECTURE,

DELIVERED AT THE

OPENING OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

OF THE

Columbian College

IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA;

March 30, 1825.

BY

THOMAS SEWALL, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

WASHINGTON CITY:

PRINTED AT THE COLUMBIAN OFFICE.

1825.

LECTURE, &c.

GENTLEMEN :

THE occasion which has called us together, is one of high interest. The establishment of a Medical School, whether we consider it as connected with the progress of medical science in times past, or associated with its future advancement, is an event which we cannot regard with feelings of indifference.

On such an occasion it would seem to be peculiarly appropriate to direct our attention to the origin of the science ; to trace its progress in succeeding ages ; mark the different revolutions it has undergone ; and, particularly, to notice those institutions, individuals, and events, by which it has been brought to its present state.

But the subject is too extensive to be embraced in a single lecture. I shall therefore not detain you with an account of the Medical Schools, or the great men of antiquity, but call your attention, for a few moments, to a brief sketch of the medical

history of our own country ; and particularly of those institutions, and of those circumstances, from which it has derived its principal character.

On looking back upon the early history of our country, our attention is arrested by the extraordinary fact, that more than a century and a half elapsed after its first settlement, before a single institution existed, either for the education of physicians, or the regulation of the practice of medicine.

Early and ample provision was made for the purposes of general education. Schools and Colleges were established ; many able politicians, accomplished civilians, and learned divines, were produced ; while scarcely a scientific physician was to be found, excepting such as had sought an education in the schools of Europe, or had emigrated to this country from abroad.

This fact is the more remarkable, since our ancestors must, from repeated ravages of fatal diseases among them, have learned the importance of education, in directing a profession so intimately connected with the preservation of human life.* Yet, when we consider the objects for which they emigrated, and the extraordinary circumstances that attended them, we shall find a satisfactory explanation, if not a full apology, for their disregard of medical science.

* See Note A.

No other colony was ever planted in a foreign country, composed of individuals of the same character, actuated by the same motives, and governed by the same policy, as that which first settled America. Our ancestors did not come hither for the purposes of monied speculation, or scientific research. Neither the love of money, nor the acquisition of knowledge, could have induced them to separate from relatives and friends, the comforts of domestic life, and civilized society, to encounter the perils, the labours, and privations, that awaited them on the hostile shores of a savage wilderness. A zeal more pure, and a spirit more elevated, inspired and sustained them. It was the great master principle of religious liberty and religious reformation, that kindled the zeal of our fathers, directed their course, and bore them on to this western world. A principle, the effects of which have descended to us, and are still visible in every part of our country.

It is not strange that, under such circumstances, the interest of the church should have predominated, and have given a leading character to all their institutions; while medicine and other branches of science were regarded as subordinate objects, and left to be developed by the future necessities and resources of the country.

Other causes, no doubt, had an influence in retarding the progress of medical science, during the early

part of our history. A new country is not favourable to the improvement of science, and particularly to a science which more than any other is founded on observation and experience. The general health that prevails, the scattered state of population, and above all, the poverty which renders it necessary for every one to provide for his wants with his own hands, while they damp the ardour of inquiry, preclude the possibility of accurate and extensive observation. The depressed state of medical science which marked the period of the emigration, may be regarded as another cause that retarded its progress for many years in this country.

Our ancestors lived long enough in Europe to imbibe something of the genius of their native country, and the spirit of the age. This was then a country whose medicine had scarcely emerged from empiricism, and an age still abounding in superstition. It was not to be expected that they should bring with them a high respect for a science, or an ardent devotion to its interest, which had been but little cultivated, and which at that period was extremely limited and hypothetical. The discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, and the course of the chyle by Aselius and Pequet, had been scarcely promulgated, when our ancestors embarked for America ; and the labours of the Monros and the Hunters, as well as the improvements of the anatomists, physiologists, and surgeons

of France, which have reflected so much light upon the science, were effected long after this period. Nor was it till since our ancestors left Europe, that the great medical schools of Edinburgh, London, and Paris, acquired that celebrity, and exerted that influence on the science, which has been so extensively experienced through the world during the last century.

When we consider, then, the object for which our ancestors emigrated to America ; the difficulties they had to encounter ; the state of the country to which they came ; and, above all, the depressed state of medical science throughout Europe at the time, it is easy to explain their disregard of medical education, and its slow progress for many years that followed.

From the scanty records which contain the medical history of America, we are left in doubt with respect to the exact state of the science, for a considerable time after its settlement. We are informed by the few scattered fragments of history which are left us, as well as by tradition, that our early divines, in imitation of the ancient priests of Egypt, of Greece, and Rome, united with their clerical profession the practice of medicine. A venerable and distinguished physician* of New-England, now living on the spot where the pilgrims of Plymouth first landed, says, in a letter received on this subject, “ That for many

* Dr. James Thacher.

years after the first settlement of the country, it was deemed indispensable for clergymen to acquire a knowledge of practical medicine, to discharge the duties of piety and humanity to their suffering brethren ; and though they were not endowed with high attainments in medical science, they were, nevertheless, qualified for great usefulness in their respective stations. Altogether unlike the ignorant empirics of later times, they were actuated by the purest motives, and the highest considerations of benevolence. By their amiable manners, zealous attention, and pious converse, they endeared themselves to their people, mutual attachments were formed, and the fullest confidence reposed in their skill."

So far were the professions of divinity and medicine united, that the clergy not only prescribed for the sick, but entered into medical controversies, and wrote practical works on the diseases of the country. The first medical work published in America, was written by a learned clergymen of Boston, and entitled "**A Brief Guide in the Small Pox and Measles.**" It was printed in the year 1677. This was soon followed by the work of another clergymen, which bore the title of "**A Good Management under the Distemper of the Measles.**"

However proper and necessary it might have been, in the then existing state of the country, and under the peculiar circumstances of the times, to

mingle the two professions ; and although we must ever entertain a grateful recollection of these pious clergymen, for their benevolent offices to the sick, as well as for their efforts for the promotion of the science while in the hands of others ;* it is obvious that medicine could have been but little advanced by the desultory and distracted labours of a class of men occupied with the arduous duties of another profession, and who could have possessed but a very imperfect knowledge of the structure and laws of the animal economy, and of the nature of disease. But the clergy were not the only persons to whom was confided the practice of medicine, even in the earliest period of our country. On the first settlement of America, a few physicians came over with the colonists, planted themselves in the country, and as far as circumstances admitted, or occasion required, devoted themselves to the duties of their profession.† But they settled in the principal towns and villages, extending their labours only in extreme cases to the remote parts of the colonies, and among the Indian tribes of the country ; while, in all ordinary cases, the great mass of the community were either dependent on the clergy, or compelled to employ those who were much less qualified to administer medical aid.

* See Note B.

† See Note C.

This state of things, however, did not continue for a long time. As early as 1638, Harvard College was founded at Cambridge, in New-England ; and, though originally designed to form young men for the ministry, and to educate the native Indians of the country, it was not long before some of its graduates began to turn their attention to the profession of medicine. Several young men of this description, after studying a suitable time with the most eminent physicians of America, repaired to Europe to enjoy the benefit of lectures, and finish their education in the public schools. The number was augmented by the graduates who came out from William and Mary College of Virginia, and Yale College in Connecticut : the former of which was founded in 1691, and the latter in 1700. At a later period, several of the graduates of Princeton College, New-Jersey, founded in 1746, pursued the same course.

Thus were introduced into America, a number of well educated physicians, who were natives of the country, besides several distinguished European physicians, who in the mean time had emigrated with the early settlers.* Yet the number was so small, and the increase so inconsiderable, when compared with the rapid progress of the population, that the demand for medical practitioners could not be supplied.

* See Note D.

In those days it was not uncommon for a skilful surgeon to ride one and even two hundred miles, to amputate a limb, or reduce a dislocated shoulder, while patients for more difficult operations were compelled to cross the Atlantic; and at this period females were the only accoucheurs of the country. No medical schools for the education of physicians had been established; and such a thing as a respectable medical library did not exist. The works of Sydenham, Boerhaave, Van Swieten, Mead, Brooks, Huxham, Cowper, Keill, Douglass, Heister, Ledran, and Lewis, were almost the only authors that were known or studied in America; and these were seldom found in the same collection.

Such was the general state of medical science in America, for more than a century and a half after its first settlement; and if any exceptions to it existed, they were only to be met with in the larger towns and cities, where, from the density of the population, and the greater number of physicians, a spirit of emulation was excited, occasions of professional intercourse increased, and more extensive opportunities enjoyed for reading and observation.

But a new era was about to commence. The science had already begun to revive in Europe, and to present a new aspect. In 1719 the foundation of the great medical school of Edinburgh was laid by the elder Monro; medical instruction in London

was elevated by the genius and industry of William and John Hunter ; the University of Leyden was brought into high repute by the labours of Boerhaave ; and the medical schools of France began to assume a new character. The spirit of improvement reached America ; and our physicians, while they felt its influence, perceived the necessity of adopting measures to check the progress of quackery and empiricism, which threatened to overspread the country. But they saw that nothing could be done without instituting measures for the medical education of a greater number of our young men, than enjoyed the means, or possessed the inclination, to resort to Europe. The establishment of medical schools presented the only rational prospect of accomplishing so desirable an object.

Among the various means which have been adopted for the education of young men to the practice of physic, medical schools and public lectures have ever been regarded as the most important, and their utility has been sanctioned by every age. These institutions are almost coeval with the first dawning of medical science ; and have been established in almost every populous city in the civilized world. In Egypt, in ancient Greece and Rome, in the principal cities of Spain, in Italy, in France, Germany, and Holland ; and, in the last century, in the larger cities of Great Britain ; and wherever they have been

established and flourished, medical science has been elevated, quackery has vanished, and regular physicians have commanded consideration and respect. These facts our physicians had learned and appreciated ; and a few of them, who had visited the celebrated schools of Europe, and whose spirits had been fired by the example of the great masters of that day, were anxious that something should be done in their native country. No attempt, however, was made to establish a medical school in America, until 1765.

Previous to this period, and as early as 1750, the body of Hermanus Carroll, a criminal who had been executed for murder, was dissected in the city of New-York, by Dr. John Bard and Dr. Peter Middleton, two of the most eminent physicians of that day, and the blood vessels injected, for the instruction of the young men then engaged in the study of medicine ; and this, says our celebrated countryman, Dr. Hosack, was the first essay made in the United States for the purpose of imparting medical knowledge, by the dissection of the human body, of which we have any record.

Six years after this, viz. in 1756, a course of lectures on Anatomy and Surgery, accompanied by dissections of the human body, was delivered at Newport, in the State of Rhode Island, by a Doctor William Hunter, a distinguished Scotch physician, who had been educated at the University of Edin-

burgh. To these lectures not only the medical students and physicians, but all the literary gentlemen of the town, were invited.

But these efforts to give instruction by dissections and lectures were only temporary, and no plan was matured and carried into operation, for instituting a regularly organized medical school, till the one of Philadelphia, in 1765.

The foundation of this school was laid by the enterprise and zeal of Drs. Shippin and Morgan. These gentlemen were both natives of Philadelphia, and of about the same age. Having completed their preparatory education, and graduated, Dr. Morgan at the college of Philadelphia, and Dr. Shippin at the college of New-Jersey, they both commenced the study of medicine in their native city; the former with the justly celebrated Dr. Redman, and the latter with his father, then a respectable physician of Philadelphia. After the usual course with their private instructors, they repaired to Europe to complete their medical studies in the public schools. Shippin first visited London, and spent a considerable time in the family of John Hunter; and it was while enjoying the instructions of this eminent teacher, that he imbibed his fondness for anatomy, and first conceived the idea of teaching the science in America. He also enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Hewson, Sir John Pringle, and Dr. Fother-

gill ; the latter of whom took a deep interest in the improvement of medical science in America, and presented, through Shippin, a valuable set of anatomical drawings to the Pennsylvania Hospital, and particularly with a view to the founding of a medical school in connexion with this institution.

Shippin, after finishing his studies in London, repaired to Edinburgh, where he studied some time and graduated. He afterwards visited France, and returned to his native country in 1762, with the full determination of opening a school of anatomy.

Morgan first visited Europe in 1760, and after attending the lectures of William Hunter and others, in London, he spent two years in Edinburgh, and graduated at that University. From Edinburgh he went to Paris, and passed a winter in attending the medical lectures of that city. He afterwards made the tour of Holland and Italy. On his return to London he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. It was while Shippin and Morgan were in Europe that they concerted the plan of establishing a medical school in their native city. Accordingly, Dr. Shippin, on his return to America, in 1762, commenced a course of lectures on anatomy and midwifery, accompanied by dissections, to a class of ten students.

The private lectures of Dr. Shippin were continued annually, until 1765, at which time Dr. Morgan returned, united in the enterprise, and laid before the

Trustees of the College of Philadelphia a plan for establishing a medical school under their auspices. The plan was adopted ; and Drs. Morgan and Shippin were soon after appointed professors of the school. And thus was laid the foundation of the medical school of Philadelphia. As the school increased in the number of its pupils, additional professorships were created, and different gentlemen appointed to fill the chairs. But the school had not been long in successful operation, when a rival institution was established, and connected with the University.

This division of interest, at a time when the field was scarcely large enough for the support of a single school, produced contention among the physicians, and resulted in the mutual injury of both institutions. At length, in 1791, the two schools were united, by combining the talents of both in the present establishment. Since this period the school has been increasing in the number of its students, till it has arisen from ten, which composed the first class of Dr. Shippin, to nearly five hundred. From the most accurate calculation that can be made, it is computed that not less than seven thousand young men have received instruction within the walls of this school ; and at this time there is scarcely a State, a Territory, or a District, in the Union, in which there is not one or more physicians who have attended its lectures. The Pennsylvania Hospital, and Philadelphia

Almshouse, are connected with the school, to which the students are admitted for clinical instruction. Such has been the commencement and progress of the first medical school founded in America; an institution which has proved an honour and a blessing to the country, and a rival of the best schools in Europe.

The second medical school instituted in America, is that of the City of New-York, first established under the charter of King's College, in 1767, three years only after that of Philadelphia. The following year the school was opened for medical instruction, with six professorships, and united the talents and learning of Drs. Clossey, Jones, Middleton, Smith, Tennent, and the late Dr. Samuel Bard, who were appointed to fill the chairs.

The founders of this school were, no doubt, excited to the laudable enterprise, by the important example which had been set them in Philadelphia, and the success which had attended the establishment of a school in that city; as well as from a desire to enlarge the sphere of instruction, and extend the benefits of medical education through the country. But their prospects were soon destroyed. The medical school of New-York, thus organized, and provided with six eminent professors, was in operation but a few years, before its labours, in common with those of most other literary and scientific institutions of our country, were interrupted by the Revolu-

lutionary war ; and it was not till the year 1792 that they were recommenced. At this time the school was reorganized by the Trustees of Columbia College, which had been known by the style of King's College, before the Revolution, and a faculty consisting of six professors appointed to fill the different chairs.

After the renovation of the school, it continued to rise in its character, and increase in the number of its students, till the year 1806, at which time the Legislature of the State was prevailed upon to grant a charter to a new College of Physicians. As soon as the new College was established, and its professors appointed, there commenced a spirit of rivalry and competition between the two schools, which led to the most disastrous and unhappy consequences. After a long and bitter contest between the different parties, the friends of medical science interfered, and arrested the progress of the difficulties which had nearly proved fatal to both institutions. At length the Regents of the University, under the authority of the Legislature, abolished the new school which had been created, and established the old school upon its present foundation, with the style of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Had the wisdom of the Legislature protected the medical school first instituted, from the effects of competition, it must, from the peculiar advantages of its

location, as well as from the distinguished talents of its professors, have arrived much earlier to the elevated rank it at present sustains, if not have proved a powerful rival of the school at Philadelphia.

The school of New-York has six professorships, all of which are filled. The medical students who attended the last course of lectures, amounted to one hundred and ninety. The school has connected with it an extensive and well arranged Hospital, which is opened for the benefit of the students.

The medical school of Harvard College is the next in succession, and was established at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1782; nearly a century and a half after the classical department of the institution had been in successful operation. This school probably owes its origin, in some degree, to the Revolutionary war; an event which, though it suspended for a time the progress of the two schools already existing, seems to have contributed more to the advancement of medical science, and its general diffusion through the country, than almost any other that has occurred in our history.

The formation of an army collected together the physicians from every part of the country, promoted social intercourse, and opened a new field for medical investigation. Military hospitals were established for the reception of the sick and wounded; new forms of disease were developed; many important

operations in surgery were performed ; and frequent opportunities presented for the cultivation of practical anatomy, to those who had never before witnessed a dissection. At the close of the war the physicians and surgeons returned home, carrying with them the spirit they had imbibed for medical investigation, together with the results of an extensive experience : and thus was disseminated through the country, a fund of practical knowledge, and a taste for medical inquiry, which was never before known, and which no other circumstances could have produced.

It was soon after the army was encamped at Cambridge, and a military hospital opened in that town, that the medical school of Harvard was first organized, and the plan laid for a course of public lectures. This event seems also to have been hastened by the anatomical lectures of Dr. Warren, which had been delivered in Boston the two preceding years, and which the students of the University had liberty to attend. In the commencement of this school three professorships were established, and the late Dr. Warren, Dr. Waterhouse, and Dr. Dexter, appointed to fill the chairs. Under this organization a course of lectures of about six weeks' continuance was given, annually, for twenty-eight years.

Although the school was liberally endowed.* and possessed some of the first medical talents in the country, its success was extremely limited, and its influence confined to a narrow sphere, until it was removed to Boston, in 1810. Since that period it has been rapidly improving, and at this time is one of the most flourishing institutions of the country. Its professors have been increased to five; and in 1824 it had one hundred and thirty students. The Massachusetts General Hospital, an extensive and well arranged establishment, has been recently erected, is opened to the students of the school, and is one of the best clinical institutions in the United States.

The fourth medical school instituted in the United States, is that of Dartmouth College, at Hanover, New-Hampshire; established in 1797.

This school was founded by the enterprise of Dr. Nathan Smith, who at that time had just returned from the University of Edinburgh, where he had spent some time for the completion of his studies. In 1798 he was appointed sole professor of the school, and for twelve years gave lectures on the different branches of medicine, excepting two courses, in which he was assisted in the department of chemistry.

The school has at this time three professorships; and in 1824 the medical class amounted to eighty.

* See Note E.

An infirmary has recently been established in connexion with the school, designed particularly for the instruction of the students.

This institution, although it was commenced and continued for a considerable time by the labours of a single professor, has been eminently useful in disseminating medical science in a portion of country where but few advantages had previously been enjoyed, and has sent abroad many valuable physicians and surgeons, and several who have done distinguished honour to the profession.

The College of Medicine of Maryland, established at Baltimore, is the fifth medical school constituted in the country, and was regularly organized by an act of the Legislature of that State, in 1807.

This school owes its origin to Dr. John B. Davidge, who, in 1804, commenced a course of lectures in Baltimore, on midwifery, to a class of six students. The year following he lectured also on anatomy and surgery to a class of seven students; and in 1806 to a class of nine students.

In 1807 two eminent physicians, Dr. Cocke of Virginia, and Dr. Shaw of Maryland, united in the school, and lectures were given on the different branches of medicine. The same year they petitioned the Legislature of Maryland for a charter. A charter was granted, and the school became regularly organized, by the style of the College of Medi-

cine of Maryland. In 1810 the Legislature enlarged the College to a University, and gave power to annex three other Colleges or Faculties to that of Medicine, viz. a Faculty of Divinity, a Faculty of Law, and a Faculty of Arts and Sciences ; and ordered that the four Colleges, or Faculties, be styled the University of Maryland.

Since the last act of the Legislature, the medical department of the University, by the influence and zeal of its distinguished founder, and the labours of other eminent teachers, has been rapidly rising into importance, and at the present time is one of the most respectable institutions in the country. An infirmary has been recently erected, in connexion with the school, for the purpose of clinical instruction. There are seven professorships ; and in 1824-5 the class was composed of two hundred and fifteen regular pupils.

Besides the five medical schools embraced in the preceding account, a number, of more recent date, have been instituted in different parts of the United States ; but time will not allow a detail of their individual history. A notice of the period at which they were respectively established, with a brief account of the present condition of each, will sufficiently show the rapid progress medical science and education are making in our country.

In the year 1812, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of the State of New-York, was instituted by the Regents of the University of the State, and placed under the direction of a Board of Trustees. The year following, the school was organized by the Trustees, and brought into operation with five professorships. In 1824-5, the medical class was composed of one hundred and twenty students.

In the year 1813, the Medical School of Yale College was instituted under the charter of that seminary, and established at New Haven, Connecticut. This school has five professorships. The number of medical students who attended the last course of lectures, was eighty-two.

In 1818, the Medical College of Ohio was established at Cincinnati, in that state, but has since undergone considerable changes, and for a time the lectures were suspended ; but its labours have recommenced under a new charter of the Legislature, and the first course of lectures delivered after its reorganization, in 1824-5, was attended by twenty-two students. The present number of professorships is four. It has an hospital, to which the students are admitted for clinical instruction.

In 1818 the Vermont Academy of Medicine was established at Castleton, in that State, under the charter of Middlebury College. This school has

five professorships. The medical students attending the last course of lectures, were one hundred and twenty-four.

In 1818, the Medical School of Transylvania University was instituted at Lexington, Kentucky. At the time of the first organization of the institution five professorships were established, all of which have been filled. This school has experienced the most rapid growth of any in the United States. The first course of lectures were delivered in 1819, to a class of twenty-six students. The medical class, in 1824-5, amounted to two hundred and thirty-five. An infirmary is connected with the school, which affords an opportunity for clinical instruction to the class.

In 1820, the Medical School of Maine was established at Brunswick, under the charter of Bowdoin College. This school has three professorships. Sixty students attended the last course of lectures.

In 1821, the Medical Department of Brown University, at Providence, Rhode Island, was organized with four professorships. Forty students attended the last course of lectures.

In 1822, the Medical School of the University of Vermont was organized at Burlington, and four professorships instituted. The medical class in 1824 was composed of forty-two students.

In 1822, the Berkshire Medical School was established at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, under the charter

of Williams College, of that State. This school has six professorships. In 1824 there were ninety-four students.

In 1824, the Medical College of South Carolina was established at Charleston. In this school there are seven professorships. Fifty medical students attended the first course of lectures delivered in 1824-5. The students have the privilege of attending the practice of the Marine Hospital.

In 1824, the Medical School of Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, was established, and located at Philadelphia. This school has six professorships ; and, though fully organized, has not yet been brought into operation. An infirmary is connected with the school, to which the students will be admitted for clinical instruction.*

We have, therefore, at this time, sixteen Medical Schools in the United States, besides the one recently established in this City, and which we are about to commence.

These institutions are all organized on the same general plan, and have for their great object the advancement of medical education. And, if we can confide in the statements we have received from Europe, or in the observations made by persons who have visited the schools of both countries, those of the United States are not surpassed, either for

* See Note P.

the excellence of their organization, or the ability with which they are conducted, by similar establishments in any part of the world.

In all our schools the principal branches of medical science are separated, and confined to distinct professorships, and a professor is appointed to give lectures on each. That division of the science which has obtained in most of the schools, and which seems the best calculated to facilitate instruction, is into Anatomy and Physiology—Surgery—the Theory and Practice of Physic—Materia Medica—Chemistry—and Obstetrics.

In some of the schools, a professorship of Medical Jurisprudence is added; but, generally, this branch is embraced in the Professorships of Materia Medica, Chemistry, and Obstetrics. A course of lectures is given annually, on each branch, continuing from three to five months.

The course on Anatomy is illustrated by demonstrations on the recent subject, by the exhibition of models and drawings of the different parts of the body, by dried preparations, and specimens of morbid structure. The course on Surgery is accompanied by operations on the dead body; while Chemistry is illustrated in every step by experiments before the class. Private dissecting classes are established, which give the student an opportunity for a more minute examination of the parts displayed in

the lecture room, and familiarize him with surgical operations by the habitual use of his own knife.

Most of our schools have connected with them hospitals and infirmaries, which afford the professor an opportunity of enforcing his principles at the bed side, and open to the student ample means to become acquainted with practical medicine. Medical libraries, anatomical and mineralogical cabinets, are established for the benefit of the students; societies are formed for reading dissertations, and discussing medical subjects; and, in some of our schools, provision is made for awarding premiums for such essays as are found to possess superior merit.* All our schools have the power to confer medical degrees; but these honours are awarded to such students only as have made suitable proficiency in the science, and who, on strict examination, are found qualified to practise, and entitled to public confidence.†

Although medical education in the United States has been steadily improving during the last half century,—at no period of our history has its progress been so rapid as for a few years past; and at no period have its benefits been so extensively felt through the country, or the condition of our medical institutions been so flourishing, as at the present time. At the last session of our schools, and that which has

* See Note G.

† See Note H.

but just closed, nearly two thousand young men, from the different parts of the United States, have attended medical lectures, and enjoyed all the advantages of a course of public instruction, which combines the talents and learning of more than eighty of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the country.*

In looking back on the history of our schools, while we mark, with high satisfaction, the accelerated progress of medical education in the present day, we cannot but notice, with peculiar interest, the fact, that notwithstanding new schools have been springing up in rapid succession, in different parts of the country, and drawing pupils around them, the older schools have been more flourishing than at any former period. One hundred and fifty-eight years of our history elapsed, after the first settlement of America, before a single medical school existed in the country. In the forty-seven years that followed, five medical schools were founded, and in the twelve succeeding years, which period completes our history, no less than twelve have been added to the number. Sixty years ago, when but one school existed in the country, only ten students enjoyed the benefit of medical lectures. Twelve years afterwards, when only five schools were established, not more than five hundred students attended lec-

* See Note I.

tures ; while the sixteen medical schools now existing, impart instruction to nearly two thousand pupils. A striking illustration of the increasing resources of our country, and of the growing taste for medical science.

Although our medical schools constitute the principal means by which the science has been extended through the country, and brought to its present state, there is another class of institutions which have contributed essentially to its progress. I refer to those societies which have been formed for the regulation of the practice of physic, and the suppression of quackery.

As early as the year 1781, an institution of this kind was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts, by the name of the Massachusetts Medical Society, constituting thirty-one of the most eminent physicians of that Commonwealth, named in the charter, a body politic, with power to frame a code of by-laws, and regulate the practice of physic in the State. Also, to elect, from time to time, such physicians as should be deemed worthy of membership, and to expel such members as were found unworthy ; to point out a course of study requisite for a medical education, and to examine and license such candidates as should be found qualified to practise. Also, to establish subordinate societies in the different districts of the State. This society, originally com-

posed of thirty-one members, now embraces more than two hundred physicians ; and there is scarcely a practitioner of the State, who has not been received into it, either by election or examination.*

Similar societies have since been incorporated by the Legislatures of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey,† Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, besides one in the District of Columbia, constituted by an act of Congress. We have, therefore, at this time, twenty State Medical Societies, most of which have subordinate branches in the different districts or counties ; besides numerous other associations, instituted for similar purposes, in our principal towns and cities. These societies, formed as they have been by legislative authority, and having at all times received the countenance and support of men of education and influence, though in some respects they are differently constituted, wherever they have been established, have promoted a spirit of harmony among the members of the profession, and at the same time excited a degree of emulation, and a spirit of medical inquiry, which have been highly beneficial ; and, while they have given character and respectability to the practice of medicine, they have

* See Note K.

† See Note L.

been signally useful in protecting the community against the impositions of quackery.*

Besides our medical schools and medical societies,—dispensaries, hospitals, infirmaries, and asylums for the reception of the poor, the sick, and insane, have been established in almost every part of the country. Several hundreds of these institutions, supported by public endowments, or private charity, are found in the United States ; and, while they afford means of protection and relief to a large portion of the helpless and suffering part of the community, they furnish ample opportunities to the medical student to investigate the causes and nature of diseases, and become acquainted with the operation of remedies ; thus uniting the objects of humanity and the advancement of medical science.

This is not all that has been done in America for the interest of medicine. We have already produced some of the best works of the present day, on anatomy, surgery, the theory and practice of physic, *materia medica*, pharmacy, chemistry, obstetrics, and medical jurisprudence ; works which have not only been adopted as the text books of our own schools, but have been republished abroad, and received the highest commendation of European professors. Our periodical journals,† of which we have no less than twelve published quarterly, or at shorter intervals, besides hos-

* See Note M.

† See Note N.

pital reports, and the transactions of medical societies, abound with original papers, and many of them of great value.

It must be gratifying to every American to know, that the medical literature of the United States is, at this time, sought for and read with avidity, in every part of the civilized world ; while much of it is translated into the French, the German, and Italian languages, and republished in the journals of those countries : the highest compliment that could be paid to the genius and industry of our physicians.

Such has been the progress, gentlemen, of medical science in the United States. If its advancement in the early periods of our country, was slow and obscure, its improvement in later times has been rapid, beyond a parallel in the history of the world. What age, or nation, has produced, in a little more than half a century, a system of medical education, and of medical police, to be compared to those of our country ? At what period, or in what nation, can seventeen medical schools, twenty medical societies, more than two hundred hospitals, and other infirmaries for the sick, twelve periodical journals,—to say nothing of other works on the various branches of medicine, —be found, the product of sixty years ? Or where shall we find the salutary effects of medical educa-

tion so extensively diffused, or so strikingly illustrated, as in the United States?

If we have produced no medical school which has dictated to the world the doctrines that should be taught and believed; it is because freedom of inquiry, independence of thought, and equality of condition, constitute the predominant features of our country, and enter into the genius of all our institutions. If we have produced no fortunate genius, whose discoveries have at once revolutionized the science, or established a new era in medicine; we have produced a host of able teachers, successful practitioners, and some of the best writers of the age.

And if we examine the records which contain the history of the science, during the present century, it will be found, it is believed, that we are not behind other nations, in those great improvements in the practice of medicine and surgery, which so peculiarly characterize this period. It is not to medicine, exclusively, that our physicians have confined their labours; nor is it in this profession alone, that they have acquired reputation. They have cultivated, with great success, the kindred sciences. Some of the most approved works of the present day, on Mineralogy and Geology, on Botany and Ornithology, have been written by American physicians. In all our philosophical, literary, and humane institutions, they have taken an active, lead-

ing part ; and, if we examine the transactions of those bodies, we shall find larger contributions from physicians, than from any other class of our citizens.

If, in examining the present condition of medical science in the United States, and contrasting it with what it has been in times past, and with what it now is in other countries, we have cause for exultation ; we have fresh motives presented to us for increased exertion. If much has already been accomplished, much still remains to be done. Though our large towns and cities, and the more populous parts of our country, are supplied with well educated physicians, —a large portion of our territory, remote from the schools, is still without those who have enjoyed the benefits of public instruction.

If we have ten thousand physicians, as computed by a late writer, we have more than fifteen thousand practitioners of medicine, many of whom have never heard a public lecture, or seen a demonstration in anatomy. And, until medical schools be more extensively established through the country, many who enter the profession must necessarily be deprived of the privileges of a regular education.

While such motives as these call on us for renewed and vigorous exertions, an animating prospect presents itself to our view. Medical science in the United States is already beginning to assume a

national character. The uniformity of our medical schools ; the co-operation of our medical societies ; our text books, adopted as the standards of education in all our institutions ; our periodical journals, which convey the same intelligence throughout the country ; as well as the genius and constitution of our government, are all tending to such a result.* We have before us a country unexplored, almost boundless in extent, and inexhaustible in its resources. A country possessing every variety of climate, and consequently calculated to develop every form of disease. A soil abounding in medicinal plants and minerals, which chemistry has not yet analyzed, and but few of which have been applied as medical remedies. With such a field before us, what claims have not humanity and science on our best exertions ; and with well directed efforts, aided by the light that now beams upon us, what may we not hope to accomplish !

If, in sixty years, with the limited means we have possessed, and with all the difficulties we have had to encounter, we have produced the best system of medical education, the most perfect code of medical police, that has been exhibited to the world ; if we have produced some of the best practical and elementary books, and some of the most eminent

* See Note Q.

physicians and surgeons of any age or country ; if we have done this, in the short period of sixty years that are passed, what will be our advance in sixty years to come ? May I not, with propriety, to use the language of a distinguished scholar of our country, say on this, as he has done upon another occasion—“ He who shall stand where I stand, sixty years hence, and look back on the present condition of medical science, from a distance equal to that from which we contemplate the founding of the first medical school in America, will sketch a contrast far more astonishing, and will speak of our times as the day of small things, in stronger and juster language, than any in which we can depict the poverty of the science in the days of our fathers.”

Although I may have detained you too long already, gentlemen, it would not be proper to let the present occasion pass, without some notice of the origin, the design, and the prospects of the Institution which we now bring before the public. Allow me, then, to ask your attention, for a few moments, to a sketch of its history.

In the year 1819, the Rev. Obadiah B. Brown, and the Rev. Luther Rice, impressed with the importance of education, and particularly with the benefits that would result to the community from a University located at the seat of the national govern-

ment, projected the plan of establishing a College in this District, and fixed on College Hill for its site. After maturing the plan, they proceeded to purchase the ground, and commenced the erection of the present College edifice. They brought around them a few individuals, who manifested an interest in the object, and applied to Congress for a charter. In the winter of 1821 a charter was granted, constituting thirteen individuals a Board of Trustees, with full power to appoint a faculty, provide means of instruction, and to confer degrees in the liberal arts and sciences.

From the commencement of the undertaking, the founders of the College contemplated a University; an institution which should not only provide for a system of classical education, but embrace distinct departments for Medicine, Divinity, and Law. Soon after the charter was procured, the classical department was organized, a faculty appointed, and a course of instruction commenced.

The Trustees, in their first circular, announced their intention to bring the medical department into operation, as early as circumstances should admit. Soon after, they appointed two professors to the medical department, and in the September of 1824, two others. In October following, the organization of the medical department was completed, and arrangements made for a course of lectures on the various branches of medicine.

With a view to the accommodation of the medical students of this District, as well as those who should resort hither for education from abroad, and particularly that they might enjoy the advantages of clinical practice, the Trustees directed that the lectures should be delivered in a central part of the City of Washington. Agreeably to this arrangement, the building which we now occupy has been procured, and fitted up for the accommodation of the school.

As early as November last, the medical faculty announced to the public, that their first course of lectures on the different branches of medicine would commence on the last Wednesday in March. In conformity with that notice we this day open the school, and commence a course of public lectures. Whether it be with a fair prospect of usefulness and success, and under circumstances which justify the undertaking, we leave for future events to unfold. We do not expect to accomplish, in a day, what has been found equal to the labour of years, in those schools that have gone before us. If success await the enterprise, sure we are that it is only through a series of persevering efforts, and self-denying labour, that we shall reap its fruits, or receive its rewards.

The history of the commencement and early progress of all other schools, informs us that we have much labour to endure, and many opposing obstacles

to overcome ; and, resting as we do, on our own resources, unaided by the rich endowments that other institutions have received, and unprotected, except by the guardian care of a Board of Trustees, and the friendly countenance of an enlightened community, we are deeply sensible that we have great personal sacrifices to make, and many difficulties to encounter. Yet I trust that our object is too elevated, and our purpose too fixed, to suffer such considerations to have any other effect than that of stimulating us to more active and vigorous exertion.

If, on the one hand, these difficulties present themselves ; on the other, a more cheering prospect opens to our view. The period of the commencement of the undertaking seems peculiarly favourable to its success. We have not to encounter the prejudices of those days, when medicine was considered of doubtful utility, and the science degraded to the rank of a trade. This is an era in the history of the world, when all institutions for the promotion of science, and the melioration of the condition of man, are regarded with public favour, and sustained by a liberality of feeling known to no other age. A period when the utility of medical science is universally admitted, and the importance of medical education is duly appreciated. At this day no one doubts the necessity of medical schools, and of public lectures, to form young men for the practice of the

profession ; nor is there any one who calls in question the benefits they confer upon the community.

The circumstances of the place, too, seem not less favourable to the success of the object, than that of the period at which we commence. To say nothing of the country which immediately surrounds us, we have, at the south and west, an extensive territory, abounding with young men of talents and enterprise, wholly destitute of the means of medical instruction. In this District alone, we number a population of nearly forty thousand ; and that part of it, particularly, which is occupied by this City, is increasing in wealth and in business, as well as in population, with a rapidity scarcely known to any other town or city of equal extent in the United States. A little more than a quarter of a century ago, the sites of our magnificent Capitol, the house of the President, and the stately blocks of buildings which line our streets and avenues, were covered by a forest of oaks, interrupted only by a few tobacco fields, here and there a decaying mansion, and a dozen miserable huts for the protection of the planters' slaves ; and the winding trail of the deer, and the footpath of the savage, were still visible. That forest and those tobacco fields now contain a population of fifteen thousand souls, and we daily see enterprising and intelligent individuals collecting here, from the different parts

of the United States, and adopting it as the place of their future residence.

If such has been the rapid improvement of this City in the quarter of a century that is past, what may we expect will be its progress in the same period to come? When we consider it as situated at the head of the navigable waters of one of the finest rivers of the United States, opening a free commerce with the Atlantic; surrounded by a fertile country; and soon, no doubt, to be connected, by canal, with the almost boundless extent of territory beyond the Alleghany, affording an outlet to the vast productions of that country; and, above all, when we consider it as the place which has been selected by our country as the seat of its National Government; the residence of the Chief Magistrate of the Union; the Heads of the Departments; the Ministers of foreign courts;—the place where our Senators, Representatives, and Supreme Judiciary, annually assemble, to transact the affairs of the nation; we cannot doubt but it is destined, ere long, to fulfil the expectations of its immortal founder, and become worthy to be the Metropolis of this great Republic.

It is obvious, from the peculiar character of its population, formed, as it must be, by an assemblage of enlightened men, collected from the different parts of the United States, and from the various republics, kingdoms, and empires of the world, that there will

result a liberality of feeling, and an elevation of character, highly favourable to the cultivation of literature, science, and the arts.

This is that place, which, above all others in our country, is divested of sectional prejudices and interests, deriving its prosperity alike from every part; and which has nothing but the good of the whole to desire. That neutral ground, on which the young men of Maine and of Georgia, of Pennsylvania and Missouri, of Florida and Michigan, may meet, and mingle together; read the same books; pursue the same studies; hear the same lectures; imbibe the same spirit; and form mutual and lasting attachments. It is here that a free communication is opened, through our senators and representatives, with every part of our country. Through these channels facilities are presented to us for acquiring a knowledge of the epidemic and endemic diseases of the country; the medical topography of its different parts; the character of its physicians; the condition of its different medical institutions; and the progress the science is making: and, in turn, of imparting this intelligence to others. Facilities which belong to no other place.

It is these considerations, gentlemen, that have encouraged us to commence the present undertaking, and that give us a confident expectation of its ultimate success. It is not a spirit of rivalry, or com-

petition, that has brought this institution before the public. We occupy a field till now unappropriated, and which has hitherto been regarded as too limited to justify such an attempt. It is an humble hope of contributing something to the advancement of medical science generally, as well as of elevating its character in this District, that has called us to the enterprise. And, if it should be our fortune to lay the foundation, only, of a medical school which shall hereafter become commensurate with the progress and the demands of this rising Metropolis, and the improvement of the science through the country, we shall feel that we have done an honour to the undertaking, and discharged a duty that we owe to our fellow citizens, and to the profession.—And, who knows but it may be reserved to this school to make some discovery in medicine, which shall commence a new era in the science, or furnish the world with a remedy for some fatal disease which now eludes the powers of medicine? Who can say that it is not reserved to some student of this institution, to be the happy discoverer of a solvent for the stone, a preventive of the gout, or a cure for cancer? Who knows but some bold and fortunate genius, who shall have his zeal first enkindled in this school, may be destined, while climbing the Rocky Mountains, or exploring the vale of the Mississippi, to discover a plant or a mineral, which shall prove a cure for hy-

drophobia, or a remedy for consumption?—or find out, on the shaking prairie of Louisiana, or at the mouth of the Mobile, the true nature of miasmata, and the mode of its operation on the human body? Who knows but this school may be destined to produce a Sydenham, a Harvey, a Hunter, or a Bichat? or to give to the world a Bard, a Rush, a Warren, a Barton, or a Wistar?

NOTES.

Note A.—Page 4.

WE learn from the history of the first settlement, both of Virginia and of Plymouth, that our ancestors, after landing on the shores of America, were repeatedly visited by severe and fatal disease ; insomuch that the colonies were several times nearly depopulated ; and, had it not been for the new recruits sent over, must inevitably have become extinct. We have no particular account of the diseases of which they suffered, but have reason to believe that they were such as are consequent to exposure, hardship, and famine.—*Stith's History of Virginia* ; *Marshall's Life of Washington* ; *Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts*.

Note B.—Page 9.

The clergy of our country, of all religious denominations, have ever been the uniform and constant supporters of medical education, and of a system of well regulated practice. They have as uniformly been the opposers of quackery and empiricism ; and, when we consider the extensive influence they have exerted over all classes of the community, we cannot doubt but they have contributed, essentially, to that freedom our country has enjoyed from empirics and mountebanks, as well as to the present flourishing condition of our medical institutions.

An instance of the intrepidity and zeal of the clergy, exerted in favour of medical science, is still recollected by our older physicians, connected with the introduction of the inoculated small-pox as a substitute for the disease communicated the natural way. This innovation in practice, though one of the most important that has occurred in our medical history, was attended with circumstances of peculiar opposition and excitement, among nearly all classes. Its advocates were proscribed as “ guilty of impiety, and of spreading abroad arrows and death.” It was contended that, “ as the small-pox was a judgment from God for the sins of the people, to endeavour to avert the stroke would but provoke him the more,” and that inoculation was, therefore, “ an encroachment on the prerogatives of the Deity.”

Such was the popular excitement at one period, that it was dangerous for those engaged in inoculating to walk abroad by day, and their dwellings were assaulted by the mob at night. At this critical moment, the clergy stepped forward, exhorted the people, preached and published sermons in favour of inoculation, and thus exerted their whole influence in establishing a practice which has proved one of the greatest blessings to the country and to the world. Their influence, though less needed, was not less exerted in favour of vaccination, when first introduced among us. Although, in the early periods of our country, many of the clergy were called on to render medical aid to the sick, and some of them entered extensively into the active duties of the profession; as soon as physicians of regular education could be obtained they relinquished the practice, and at the present time but few cases exist, where the duties of the two professions are united in the same individual.

Note C.—Page⁹.

As early as 1608, being the year after the planting of the colony of Virginia at James Town, the arrival of WALTER RUSSEL, Doctor of Physic, is mentioned by the colonists; and he is afterwards spoken of as accompanying Captain Smith on a voyage of discovery, from James Town to the Chesapeake, and up the Potomac to the Falls; and also of having rendered surgical aid to Captain Smith, in the case of an accident which happened to him on this occasion.

Some islands which we discovered in the Chesapeake, during the voyage, were called Russel's Islands, says Captain Smith, in honour of Dr. Russel.

ANTHONY BAGNALL, Surgeon, is also mentioned by Captain Smith, as accompanying him on a similar voyage, made the same year, from James Town to Nansamond; the place where Norfolk is now situated.

Doctors Russel and Bagnall, therefore, were probably the first physicians who came over to the colony of Virginia; but whether they remained in the country, or soon returned to Europe, we have no account; but it is probable that their residence in America was only temporary; for, in 1609, when Captain Smith was badly wounded by the explosion of gunpowder, he says there was neither chirurgeon nor chirurgery at the fort; and he was compelled to return to Europe, for the recovery of his health.

In 1611, Doctor Bonun is mentioned, being about to leave the colony of Virginia, and to take ship with lord Delaware

for the West Indies. But no particular account is given of either of these physicians.—*Stith's Hist. Va.* 62. 74. 121.

Doctor SAMUEL FULLER was the first physician who came to New-England. He formed one of the company who landed at Plymouth, December 22, 1620, and was a deacon of the Rev. John Robinson's church. It is not certain that he had enjoyed the benefits of a collegiate education; but he is said to have been well qualified in his profession, and eminently useful as a surgeon and physician: extending his benevolent labours, not only to the sick among his immediate friends at Plymouth, and the aborigines in the vicinity, but, by the desire of Governor Endicot, twice visited the new settlement at Salem, where he manifested his skill and success in practice, among the numerous sufferers under the scurvy and other diseases. His great success was attested by Governor Endicot, who spoke highly in his praise as an able physician.—*Letter from Dr. Thacher*, 1825.

Doctor CHARLES CHAUNCEY, a distinguished scholar, a respectable physician, and eminent divine, came from England to America in the year 1638, and resided some time at Plymouth and at Scituate; but how extensively he entered into the practice of medicine, we are not informed. He was chosen president of Harvard College in 1654, and held the office till his death in 1672. He had six sons, all of whom were eminent physicians and divines.—*Ibid.*

Doctor JOHN FISH, was educated at Cambridge University, England. Having studied the medical profession, after a suitable examination he obtained a license for public practice, and came to New-England in 1637. He resided successively at Salem, Wenham, and Chelmsford, where he was distinguished, and greatly esteemed as a skilful physician, a useful preacher, and a teacher of youth. He died in 1676.—*Ibid.*

Doctor THOMAS THACHER was a native of England, and came to America in the year 1635. He finished his education in this country, and resided first at Weymouth, and afterwards at Boston, where he died in 1678. He was considered the best Greek and Arabic scholar of his time, and was held in high estimation as a successful practitioner of medicine, as well as a popular preacher. In 1677 he published a pamphlet, entitled “A Brief Guide in the Small-pox and Measles.”—*Magnalia*, iii. 148—153.

The preceding physicians came over to America with the early colonists; and, although they devoted themselves to the duties of the profession, as far as the condition of the country at that period admitted, it is evident that they emi-

grated for other purposes than those of the practice of medicine, or the improvement of the science ; and therefore form a distinct class from those regular and well educated physicians who commenced practice at a later period, and whose objects were exclusively professional.

Note D.—Page 10.

It is to be regretted that the historical records of our country contain so few notices of our early physicians ; and especially that so little authentic information has been preserved of the diseases which prevailed during the early settlement of the country, the subsequent changes they underwent, and the mode of practice adopted, with its particular results. Yet, when we consider that the want of medical libraries, connected with the arduous duties of an extensive practice, in a new country, and among a scattered population, afforded but little opportunity for reading, and much less for writing on medical subjects, and that no medical journal was published in America until nearly the commencement of the present century, through which our physicians could communicate the results of their experience, or make known their improvements and discoveries, we cannot be surprised that no more of the early history of medicine and its practitioners has come down to us.

It appears that nearly all the most eminent physicians who commenced practice in the country before the Revolution, received their medical education in foreign schools ; and a large proportion of them, particularly those of the southern provinces, emigrated from Great-Britain : for, although the Medical School of Philadelphia was established as early as 1765, it was not till the political connexion of the two countries was broken off, that an opinion generally prevailed that medicine could be taught in America. Since that period, the number of our physicians has rapidly increased, and most of them have been educated in our own schools.

This note contains a brief account of a few of those who have given a direction to the practice of medicine, or contributed to the advancement of the science.

Those who have held professorships in our schools, or have been otherwise engaged in teaching medicine, are generally known, and the influence of their labours is duly appreciated. They are not, therefore, included in the present sketch.

LEONARD HOAR, M. D. a distinguished scholar and physician, of Massachusetts, was graduated at Harvard College,

in 1650. He soon after went to England, and having completed his course of medical studies, received the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of Cambridge, in 1653. He was probably the first native American who graduated in Medicine. How far he entered into the active duties of the profession on his return to America, is not known; but probably he never engaged extensively in practice, as a considerable portion of his time was occupied with the duties of the ministry, and scientific pursuits. In 1672, he was elected President of Harvard College, which office he held till his death in 1675.—*Magnalia*, iv. 129.

Dr. THOMAS WYNNE, an eminent Welsh physician, who practised medicine several years, with high reputation, in London. He and his brother, who was also a physician, came to this country in 1682, with the original settlers of Pennsylvania. They both settled in Philadelphia, and were the earliest physicians of that city.

These gentlemen were followed by a succession of regular and well educated physicians, among whom were Dr. EDWARD JONES, Dr. OWEN, Dr. KEARSLY, Dr. GRÆME, Dr. ZACHARY, Dr. SHIPPIN, Senior, and Dr. EVANS.

These were all eminent practitioners, and did much, even at the early period in which they lived, to give that respectability to the profession, for which Philadelphia has been so long and so pre-eminently distinguished.—*Wistar's Eulogy on Shippin*.

NATHANIEL WILLIAMS, an eminent physician of Massachusetts, was educated at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1693. After studying medicine, he entered into business, and for many years enjoyed a very extensive practice. He was one of the most popular and successful practitioners of his time. In 1721, he published a pamphlet, "On the Method of Practice in the Small-pox." He died in 1739.—*Letter from Dr. Thacher*, 1825.

JOHN MITCHELL, M. D. F. R. S. a distinguished physician and botanist, came from England to this country in about 1700, and settled in Virginia, at the small town of Urbanna, situated on the Rappahannock. While he was occupied in an extensive practice, he spent considerable time in the cultivation of botany, and wrote a useful work on the general principles of the science, containing descriptions of several new genera of plants, published in 1769. In 1743, he wrote an interesting and original essay on the causes of the different colours of people of different climates, which was published in the *Philosophical Transactions*.

He attributes the difference of complexion in the human species to the influence of climate, and the modes of life;

and thinks that the whites have degenerated more from the original complexion of Noah and his family, than the Indians, or even Negroes. The colour of the descendants of Ham, he considers a blessing rather than a curse, as without it they could not well inhabit Africa. His principles were afterwards adopted by President Smith, of Princeton College, New-Jersey, who wrote a more extended essay on the subject.

He wrote various other essays, which did him great credit as a man of genius and observation; but his most valuable production, perhaps, is a paper which he drew up on the Yellow Fever, as it appeared in Virginia in 1737, 1741, and 1742. This paper, left by him in manuscript, fell into the hands of Dr. Franklin, who communicated it to Dr. Rush. Dr. Rush not only read the essay with interest, but acknowledges that he derived from it hints which assisted him in detecting the true nature and method of treating the yellow fever, as it appeared in Philadelphia in 1793. But few physicians who have lived in our country have been more justly celebrated for originality of genius and accuracy of observation, than Dr. Mitchell. He lived to practise his profession nearly fifty years in Virginia.—*Rush's Enquiries*. iii.; *Miller's Retrospect*, i. 318; ii. 367.

JOHN NICOLL, M. D. a distinguished physician of New-York, was a native of Scotland, graduated in medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and came to this country about the year 1700. He was distinguished as a successful practitioner, and beloved for his private virtues. After having spent a life devoted to the works of benevolence and piety, he died in 1743, aged 63 years.—*Smith's New-York*, 191.

ZABDIEL BOYLSTON, F. R. S was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1680. After a good private education he studied medicine with Dr. Cutler, then an eminent physician of Boston, and soon after commenced the practice of his profession in that town. By close application to study, and great attention to his patients, he soon raised himself to the head of his profession, and acquired a high reputation as a successful practitioner.

Dr. B. will ever be remembered with gratitude by his countrymen, as the first physician of America who introduced the practice of inoculating in small-pox. His first experiment was made in June, 1721. Previous to this time the small-pox had spread through the colonies at different periods, and particularly in 1678, 1692, and 1702, and had made dreadful ravages wherever it extended. The idea of inoculation was first suggested by the Rev. Cotton Mather,

who had read in the Philosophical Transactions two communications on the subject, one from Constantinople, and another from Smyrna. When the small-pox appeared in Boston in 1721, carrying with it great mortality and alarm, Dr. Mather addressed a letter to the physicians of the town, presenting them with an account of the two papers from the East, requesting them to take the subject into consideration ; but they treated the request with neglect. Dr. Boylston, who was distinguished for his boldness and decision, as well as humanity, took up the subject of inoculation on his own responsibility, and commenced the experiment by inoculating three of his own family ; an only son and two servants. These cases all terminated favourably, and established in his own mind the preventive power of inoculation. For this innovation in practice, Dr. B. drew down on himself the opposition and resentment of his professional brethren, the disapprobation of the selectmen of the town, and the indignation of an offended populace. He had his windows broken by the mob, and was pelted with stones as he walked the streets. But he could not be diverted from his purpose : and by the aid of the clergy he carried the experiment fairly through. During the years 1721 and 1722, he inoculated two hundred and forty-seven persons, and thirty-nine were inoculated by others. Of this number only six died ; while, of five thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine who in the same period took the disease the natural way, eight hundred and forty-four died. This experiment established the utility of inoculation, and the practice became general in America. Previous to this period, but few had been inoculated in England, and those chiefly convicts. But from the success which attended the practice in America, the physicians of that country were encouraged to its more general introduction. Dr. B. visited England in 1725, and had the pleasure to see inoculation in general use, as the result of his own example. He was, while upon this visit, treated with great kindness and respect, and elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He died at his native town in 1766, aged 86, universally respected and beloved. He published an historical account of the inoculated small-pox in New England, besides several papers in the Philosophical Transactions.—*Holmes' Annals*, ii. 103 ; *Hutchinson*, ii. 273. 276.

CADWALLADER COLDEN, an eminent physician and botanist, was a native of Scotland, and graduated at Edinburgh, in 1705. He came to this country with William Penn, in 1708 ; and, after having practised physic in Philadelphia for several years, with great success, he returned to his native country. While in England, a paper of his, read before the

Royal Society, "On the Animal Secretions," received high commendation as a production of great originality and genius.

He married in Scotland, and returned to this country in 1718, and settled in the city of New-York. Although Dr. Colden, soon after his return to America, entered extensively into civil and political affairs, he never lost his love for scientific pursuits. He continued an extensive correspondence with the most scientific men of Europe; and was through life one of the most active individuals in America in promoting the interest of all literary and scientific institutions. He was the first, says Dr. Franklin, who suggested the idea of establishing the American Philosophical Society. He is said to have been one of the earliest advocates in this country for the cooling plan of treatment in febrile diseases. He published an able paper on the yellow fever, as it raged in New-York in 1743; a paper on cancer; and one on the malignant sore-throat, which prevailed extensively in his day through North America. Also, an inquiry into the operation of the intellect of animals. His latest production was an introduction to the study of physic, addressed to his grandson, written when he was 81 years of age. He published several other papers of great merit.—*Rees' Cyclopædia, American edition: The American Medical and Philosophical Register*, i. 297.

MARK CATESBY, F. R S., an eminent naturalist, was born in England, 1679. He came to Virginia in 1712, and in 1722 removed to South Carolina. He spent nearly his whole life in the cultivation of natural science. In 1748 he published a natural history of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands, containing numerous plates.—*Rees' Cyclopædia, American edition; Miller*, ii. 365.

WILLIAM DOUGLASS, M. D. an eminent Scotch physician, who came to this country as early as 1715 or 20, and settled in Boston. He was considered a man of great skill in his profession; but was extremely eccentric, rough in his manners, irritable in his temper, and possessed strong prejudices. When Dr. Boylston introduced the practice of inoculation in small-pox, Douglass inveighed violently against him, and wrote several sarcastic papers on the subject. He published, besides, a history of the inoculated small-pox, a practical history of a new eruptive miliary fever, with an angina ulcusculosa, which prevailed in Boston in 1735 and 1736. He is said, also, to have made a very extensive collection of indigenous plants of this country. He died in 1752.—*Hutchinson*, ii. 80.; *Holmes' Annals*, ii. 192.

Doctor JOHN CLAYTON, an eminent botanist and physician, was born in England, in 1685. He came to Virginia in 1705, and resided near Williamsburg. He was elected a member of several of the first literary societies of Europe, and corresponded with many of the most learned naturalists of that period. As a practical botanist he was probably not inferior to any one of the age. He is the author of *Flora Virginica*, a work published by Gronovius, at Leyden, 8vo. in 1739, 1743, and 1762. He published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, several communications, treating of the culture of the different species of tobacco, and an ample account of the medicinal plants which he had discovered in Virginia. He also left behind him two volumes of manuscripts, neatly prepared for the press, and a *hortus siccus*, with marginal notes and references, for the engraver, in preparing the plates for his proposed work. It is greatly to be regretted that this work was destroyed by an incendiary during the revolutionary war. Mr. Jefferson says Dr. Clayton was a native of Virginia; see his *Notes on Va.* p. 54; *Barton's Med. and Phys. Journal*, ii. 139; *Rees' Cyclopædia, American edition*.

JOHN LINING, M. D. a distinguished physician and philosopher, of Charleston, South Carolina, was a native of Scotland, and came to this country in 1725. He published a series of statistical experiments which he made through the whole of the year 1740. In 1753 he published "a History of the American Yellow Fever."—*Ramsay's Review of Medicine*, 42.

JOHN BARTRAM, an eminent botanist of Pennsylvania, was born in Chester county, in that State, in 1701. He is the first American who conceived the plan of establishing a botanic garden. He purchased a situation on the banks of the Schuylkill, five miles from Philadelphia, and enriched it with every variety of the most curious and beautiful vegetables, collected in his excursions from Canada to Florida. He corresponded with many of the most distinguished botanists of his time, and was pronounced by Linnaeus to be "the greatest natural botanist in the world." He was elected a member of several learned societies abroad, and at length appointed American botanist to his Britannic Majesty, George III., which appointment he held until his death in 1777. He published in the *Philosophical Transactions* several communications on zoology. He published observations on the inhabitants, climate, soil, &c. made in his travels from Pennsylvania to Onondaga, 1751. A description of East Florida, 1774.—*Rees' Cyclopædia, American edition*; *Barton's Med. and Phys. Journal*.

Doctor EZEKIEL HERSEY, an eminent physician, graduated at Harvard College in 1728, and practised physic for many years in Hingham, Massachusetts. At his death, in 1770, he bequeathed to Harvard College one thousand pounds sterling, towards founding a Professorship of Anatomy and Surgery. His widow also gave an equal sum for the same purpose.—*Holmes' Annals*, ii. 297.

Doctor ABNER HERSEY, an eminent physician of Barnstable, Massachusetts, was brother to the preceding, and died not many years after him. At the time of his decease he bequeathed to Harvard College, for the establishment of a Professorship of the Theory and Practice of Physic, the sum of five hundred pounds sterling.—*Allen's Biog. Dictionary*.

Doctor JOHN MOULTRIE, a distinguished physician of Charleston, South Carolina, was a native of Europe, and came to this country in 1733. For forty years he stood at the head of his profession in Charleston. He possessed great talents for observation, and was wonderfully successful in finding out the hidden causes of disease. He was the idol of his patients; and, at his death, in 1773, many of the ladies of Charleston went into mourning on his account. The year following his death an unusual number of females perished in childbed, and apparently from despondency.

Dr. M. had a son who graduated at Edinburgh in 1749, and was a distinguished scholar and an eminent practitioner of medicine in Charleston. At his graduation he defended a thesis, “*De Febre Flava*.”—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 41. 43.

WILLIAM BULL, M. D. a physician of South Carolina, and a native of the State, distinguished for his literary attainments, as well as for an extensive knowledge of the science of medicine. He was the pupil of Boerhaave, and received the degree of M. D. at the University of Leyden, in 1734, at which time he defended a thesis on “*Colica Pictonum*.” He is quoted by Van Swieten as his fellow-student, with the title of the learned Dr. Bull. He spent a few of the last years of his life in England, and died in London in 1791, aged 82.—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 42.

Dr. JOHN TENNANT, a respectable physician of Port Royal, Virginia, who first brought into view the virtues of the Seneca snake-root. In 1736, he published, at Williamsburg, an essay on pleurisy, in which he treats of the Seneca snake-root as an efficient remedy in the cure of this disease. This article has since been introduced into the *Materia Medica*, and extensively employed in the treatment of that and other diseases. Dr. Tennant, it is believed, was a family connexion of the late celebrated Dr. Richard Mead, of Lon-

don. He held a medical correspondence with Dr. Mead for many years, and it was to him that he first communicated his account of the Seneca.—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 36; *Miller*, i. 318; *Letter from Dr. Spence*, 1825.

JOHN BRETT, M. D. was a pupil of Boerhaave, and a graduate at the University of Leyden. He emigrated to this country, and settled at Newport, in the state of Rhode Island, about 1740. He acquired great reputation in consequence of the extended fame of his preceptor.

DR. THOMAS RODMAN, came over to America, and settled at Newport, Rhode Island, at the same time; and

DR. MAGRAW, a physician of the Radcliff school, accompanied them, and settled at New-York.

THOMAS MOFFAT, M. D. a learned Scotch physician, emigrated to this country, and settled in Rhode Island in 1750. He was often consulted, and appealed to in difficult cases; but was driven out of the country in 1772, on account of his political opinions.

DOCTOR THOMAS CADWALLADER, an eminent physician of Philadelphia, after acquiring the rudiments of his profession in America, repaired to Europe to complete his education, and spent some time in London and Paris. In the former place he studied anatomy under the celebrated Chessenlen. On his return to Philadelphia he made dissections and demonstrations of the human body for his pupil, the elder Shippin. He published, about the year 1740, a treatise "On the Iliac Passion," in which he explodes the practice which till that time was common in the country, of giving quicksilver and drastic purges. He recommends in their place mild cathartics, and the use of opiates.—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 36; *Wistar's Eulogy on Shippin*.

JOHN REDMAN, M. D. a distinguished physician of Philadelphia, was born in that city in 1722. After studying medicine with Dr. Kearsly, he settled in Bermuda; but in a few years visited the medical schools of Edinburgh, Paris, and Leyden, to complete his education, and graduated at the latter University in 1748. He returned to America, and settled in his native city, where he soon acquired an extensive practice, and rose to high distinction in his profession. He was elected the first President of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

He was a strong advocate for a bold and decided practice, and considered a more energetic practice necessary in the cure of American diseases than in those of Europe. He bled freely in the yellow fever of 1762, and gave his whole influence in support of the practice in 1793. In the diseases

of old age, he considered moderate bleedings as the first of remedies. He made free use of mercury in all chronic diseases, and introduced the use of the turpeth mineral, as an emetic in gangrenous sore-throat, in 1764. No physician, probably, of his day, exerted a more extensive and controlling influence over the practice of medicine in the country, than Dr. Redman. He published an inaugural dissertation on "Abortion," in 1748, and a defence of inoculation in small-pox, in 1759.—*American Medical and Philosophical Register ; Philadelphia Medical Museum*, v. 49—56.

ARTHUR LEE, M. D. was a native of Virginia, and brother to Richard Henry Lee, the celebrated patriot of the revolution. Doctor Lee received his classical education at Edinburgh, and afterwards studied medicine in that University. As soon as he graduated he returned to his native state, and settled at Williamsburg, where he practised medicine for several years; but afterwards abandoned the profession, went to England, and commenced the study of the law in the Temple. He soon entered into political life, and rendered important services to his country during the revolutionary war. To the abilities of the statesman he is said to have united the acquisitions of the scholar. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society, and published several papers, mostly of a political character. He died in Virginia in 1792.—*Allen's Biog. Dictionary*.

LIONEL CHALMERS, M. D. was a native of Great-Britain, and came to this country, and settled in South Carolina. He was an eminent physician, and distinguished for his various and extensive attainments. He made and recorded observations on the weather of South Carolina, for ten successive years, viz. from 1750 to 1760. He communicated to the Medical Society in London, a paper on "Opisthotonus and Tetanus" in 1754, which was published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Society. He also wrote "A treatise on the Weather and Diseases of South Carolina," which was published in London, in 1776, and "an Essay on Fevers," a valuable work, published in Charleston, in 1767.—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 42.

Dr. HAMILTON and Dr. THOMPSON, two eminent Scotch physicians, emigrated to this country at an early period, probably about 1700, and settled in Maryland, where they practised for many years; the former in Calvert county, and the latter in Prince George's county. They were both men of great celebrity in their time. Nearly cotemporary with these, were Doctors SPRIGG, WEISENTHALL, PUE, SCOTT, MURRAY, and TOOTELL; and, at a later period, Drs. THOMAS,

WARFIELD, STEWART, and GAUTH. These gentlemen were educated in foreign schools, and several of them were natives of Europe. They were all eminent practitioners, and did much in forming the medical character of Maryland in the eighteenth century.—*Letter from Dr. Charles Worthington.*

THOMAS BOND, M. D. an eminent physician of Philadelphia, was a native of Maryland, and studied under the direction of Dr. Hamilton of that state. He afterwards travelled in Europe, and spent some time in Paris, and attended the practice of the Hotel Dieu. He settled in Philadelphia in 1734, and was among the founders of the College, and one of the most active managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital, at its commencement. In 1764 he was selected to give clinical lectures in the Pennsylvania Hospital, in connexion with the Medical School, then about to be established. Dr. Bond was at this time an old practitioner. He drew up, about the year 1750, some useful memoirs on medical subjects, which were published in the “Medical Observations and Inquiries, vol i. and ii. London.”—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 37; *Wistar's Eulogy on Shippen.*

Dr. PHINEHAS BOND, a younger brother of the preceding, and a native of the same state. After studying medicine some time in Maryland, he visited Europe, and passed a considerable time at the Medical Schools of Leyden, Paris, Edinburgh, and London. On his return to America, he settled in Philadelphia, where he enjoyed a high reputation for many years, as a successful practitioner of medicine. He was one of the founders of the College, now the University of Pennsylvania.—*Wistar's Eulogy on Shippen.*

Dr. BENJAMIN GALE, a native of America, and a distinguished practitioner of medicine in Connecticut, published, in 1740, a paper on the inoculation of the small-pox, intended as a prize dissertation, in solution of the problem on this subject, which had been proposed by the Academy of Bourdeaux. It was afterwards published in the Philosophical Transactions, and did him great credit, both in this country and Europe.—*Miller, i. 318.*

Dr. JOHN CUTLER, long an eminent physician and surgeon of Boston, died in 1761, aged 86. He was the preceptor of several of the early physicians of Massachusetts.—*Allen's Biog. Dic.*

ALEXANDER GARDEN, M. D. a scientific physician of South Carolina. In 1764, he published an account of the medicinal virtues of the pinkroot, and gave a botanical description of the plant. He devoted much time to the study of natural history, and particularly to botany, and made

various communications on these subjects to his friends in Europe. In compliment to him the greatest botanist of the age gave the name of *Gardenia* to one of the most beautiful flowering shrubs in the world. He was elected a member of the Royal Society of Upsal.—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 42.

Doctor JACOB OGDEN, of Long-Island, New-York, published in 1764, observations on a species of sore-throat which was then prevalent and mortal. This disease was known among the common people by the name of the putrid sore-throat.—*Ramsay's Review of Med.* 36.

Doctor JOSEPH WARREN, the distinguished revolutionary officer who fell at Bunker's Hill, was educated at Harvard College, and graduated in 1759. He studied medicine, and settled in Boston, where he soon raised himself to the head of his profession. He practised medicine for several years with great reputation; but at the commencement of the revolutionary struggle, other objects claimed his services, and he left the duties of his profession for those of the cabinet and the field. He was an accomplished scholar and physician, an eloquent orator, and an able statesman and general. He published some political papers which did him great credit. At his death he was 35 years of age.—*Rush's Eulogium; Warren's History of the War*, i. 222, 223.

HUGH MERCER, M. D. a general in the revolutionary war, was a distinguished physician, who, like Warren, fell in the defence of the liberties of his country. He was a native of Scotland, and educated at Edinburgh. He early emigrated to Virginia, and settled at Fredericksburg, where he practised medicine for several years with great reputation. During the revolution he zealously engaged in the support of the liberties of his adopted country, and fell in the battle of Princeton, 1777.—*Holmes' Annals*, ii. 372; *Letter from Chief Justice Marshall*, 1825.

Doctor GEORGE GREHAM, a respectable physician of Virginia, who emigrated to this country in the early part of the last century. He was a native of the north of England, and was educated at Edinburgh. When he came to this country he settled at Dumfries in Virginia, where he enjoyed an extensive practice for many years, and sustained a high reputation.—*Letter from Dr. Spence*, 1825.

JAMES M'LORG, M. D. a distinguished physician of Virginia, was a native of Scotland, and was educated at Edinburgh. He graduated in medicine about 1771, and defended an experimental thesis on the bile. This paper was published in London in 1772, and is a work of great originality and

merit. Soon after he graduated he emigrated to America, and settled at Williamsburg, Virginia, and was by common consent placed at the head of the profession. He is said never to have used a grain of jalap in the whole course of his practice, regarding it as too drastic a purgative.—*Letter from Chief Justice Marshall, 1825.*

JAMES LLOYD, M. D. an eminent physician of our country, was for more than half a century a medical practitioner in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his preparatory education at a private school in Connecticut, and, at the age of seventeen, commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Samuel Clark, of Boston. At the age of twenty-two he visited Europe, and spent two years in London, during which time he saw the practice and attended the instructions of Cheselden, Sharp, Warner, William Hunter, and Smellie. He returned to his native country in 1750, and settled in Boston; where, till the period of his death, he enjoyed an extensive practice, and sustained a high reputation as a practitioner of medicine. To Dr. Lloyd is due the credit of placing the practice of midwifery in New-England, in the hands of physicians, as it is to Dr. William Shippin for effecting the same change in the middle states, though at a later period. Previous to his time there were no systematic accoucheurs in the country, physicians being called only in cases of great difficulty. The good effects which have attended this change, as exemplified in the small number of females who have died in childbed since this period, compared with the numbers that perished while the practice was confined to females, shows the importance of excluding altogether those who have not been regularly educated to medicine.—*New-Eng. Journal, ii. 127.—Bartlett's Discourse, 13, 14.*

Doctor CURRIE, an eminent physician of Richmond, Virginia, practised through his life with great reputation. He seemed to possess, intuitively, the faculty of distinguishing the character of disease and of discovering the remedy. He received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh.—*Letter from Chief Justice Marshall, 1825.*

Doctor SICCARY, a practitioner of medicine in Virginia, was, it is believed, a Portuguese Jew. It is said by Mr. Jefferson, that we are indebted to him for the introduction of that admirable vegetable the tomato. He was of opinion that a person who should eat a sufficient abundance of these apples would never die. Whether he followed his own prescription is not known; but he certainly attained to a very old age, and particularly for the climate in which he lived. The tomato is raised in abundance in Virginia and the ad-

joining states, and is regarded a great luxury, and by some is considered a preservative against bilious diseases.—*Letter from J. Augustin Smith, Pres. of William and Mary College, Va. 1825.*

JOHN JEFFRIES, M. D. a distinguished physician of Boston, was born in that town, in 1744, graduated at Harvard College in 1763, and immediately after commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Lloyd. In 1766 he commenced practice in his native town. He soon after visited Europe, where he became the pupil of Wm. Saunders, and enjoyed all the advantages of the medical lectures and hospital practice of London, and in 1769 received the degree of Doctor of Physic at Aberdeen. He was soon after appointed a surgeon in the British navy, and for a considerable time held the office of surgeon-major of the British forces in America. In 1784 he resigned his station in the public service, and returned to England, and commenced the practice of his profession in London, under the most influential patronage. In 1780 he made an aerial tour from London to Kent, and the year following passed over in a balloon with M. Blanchard from England to France, which was the first aerial voyage that had been performed across the British Channel. These experiments were performed for scientific purposes, and originated in an ardent desire to ascertain, experimentally, the correctness of certain preconceived hypotheses relative to atmospheric temperature, &c. These adventures, while they excited the admiration of the public, secured to him the consideration and patronage of many of the most distinguished scientific characters of England and France. After enjoying a lucrative practice in London for ten years, he was induced to return to his native city in America, in 1790, where he held an extensive and elevated practice to the time of his decease in 1819.

Dr. Jeffries was, unquestionably, one of the most eminent physicians and surgeons that our country has produced. He was endowed by nature with a mind of a very superior order, and peculiarly fitted to the profession of medicine. He was a constant and accurate observer of nature, and possessed an acute and discriminating judgment, which seldom permitted him to be misled in the investigation of disease. He possessed one of the best private libraries in the country, and was, through life, a most indefatigable student. Anatomy and physiology were his favourite pursuits, and on these were established all his doctrines of pathology, and application of remedies. He was one of the earliest advocates of the antiphlogistic treatment of small-pox and other febrile

diseases, and he continued an ardent supporter of this practice through the whole of his professional career.—*New-Eng. Jour. of Med. and Sur.* ix. 63.

HUGH WILLIAMSON, M. D. a distinguished scholar, physician, and patriot, was born at West Nottingham, Pennsylvania, in 1735. He graduated at the College of Philadelphia, at the first commencement of that institution, in 1757. In 1763 he left America to prosecute the study of medicine at the University of Edinburgh. After remaining a while in this University, he spent some time in London, and then proceeded to Utrecht, in Holland, where he completed his education, and received the degree of M. D. On his return to his native country he settled in Philadelphia, and practised his profession for several years with reputation and success; but, on account of ill health, was induced to relinquish the duties of the profession, and devote himself wholly to literary and philosophical pursuits. He subsequently resumed the practice of medicine in North Carolina, but after several years retired to New-York, where he died in 1819. He published, in 1770, in the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, a paper on the change of climate in America. In 1811, observations on the climate of different parts of America, compared with the climate in corresponding parts of the other continent. In 1812, a *History of North Carolina*, which contains two important papers on the fevers of North Carolina, as they had prevailed in 1792 on the Roanoke, and in 1794 on the Neuse rivers; also, a paper on the fascination of serpents, in the *Medical Repository*, vol. x. p. 341.—*Hosack's Essays*, vol. i.

Doctor HALL JACKSON, an eminent physician and surgeon of Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, who, about the middle of the last century, stood at the head of the medical profession of that State. He was the first surgeon of this country, it is believed, who introduced the method of healing wounds by the first intention; and if it was not till the practice had been tried in Europe, with him it was entirely original, and the result of experiment and observation. He was a man of great eccentricity, but a bold and intelligent practitioner.

GUSTAVUS R. BROWN, M. D. an eminent physician of Charles county, Maryland, received his medical education at Edinburgh, and graduated in Medicine at that University in 1768; at which time he defended a thesis on "Animal Heat." On his return he settled in his native place, and enjoyed through life an extensive practice. Dr. Rush, who was cotemporary with Dr. Brown at Edinburgh, used to say of him that he was not second to any student of the Uni-

versity at that period. Dr. Brown was not only a well read physician, and an able practitioner of medicine, but a good classical scholar, and indulged his taste for general reading during the whole course of his laborious practice. It is said that he used but few remedies in his practice, and these of a most efficient character.—*Letter from Dr. Causin.*

Doctors GUSTAVUS BROWN and WILLIAM BROWN, were nephews of the preceding, and educated at Edinburgh, at nearly the same period. They were both eminent practitioners of medicine, the former of St. Mary's county, Maryland, and the latter of Alexandria. It is not known that either of these gentlemen left any medical writings behind them, except the inaugural theses which they defended at the time of their graduation.—*Ibid.*

Doctor PARNHAM, of Charles county, Maryland, was contemporary with the Drs. Browns, and also educated at Edinburgh. He was a distinguished practitioner of medicine and surgery in his native state.—*Ibid.*

Doctor JAMES CRAIK, a respectable Scotch physician, was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and came over to this country with Braddock's army, which landed at Alexandria, in 1755. Having served as military surgeon in Gen. Braddock's campaign in America, he settled at Norfolk, Virginia, where he practised some time with high reputation; but after a few years removed to Winchester, Virginia, and subsequently to Charles county, Maryland. At the commencement of the revolution he was appointed by the commander-in-chief to an important trust in the medical staff of the army, and during the whole of the war enjoyed his personal friendship and confidence. At the close of the revolution he settled in Alexandria. He was the family physician at Mount Vernon, and attended Washington in his last illness. He died at Alexandria in 1814, at the age of 84.—*Letter from Dr. J. B. Cutting.*

Doctor ANDREW ROBERTSON, was a native of Scotland, and received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh. He first served as a military surgeon in the British army in Flanders, and came to America with Braddock's army in 1755. He remained in the country, and settled in Lancaster county, Virginia, where he acquired a high reputation, and for many years enjoyed an extensive practice. He was particularly distinguished for his charity, and attention to the indigent sick. He made several valuable medical communications, which were published in the "London Medical Inquiries and Observations." He died in 1795.

Dr. WILLIAM BAYNHAM, son of Dr. John Baynham, of Caroline county, Virginia, was born in 1749. He studied medicine with Dr. Walker, who at that time was considered one of the most eminent physicians of the state. After he had finished his studies with Dr. W. he was sent to London, and entered a student at St. Thomas' Hospital. As soon as he had completed his course, he became a partner of Mr. Slater, an eminent surgeon of Margate, and he was subsequently invited by Mr. Else, to assist him in his demonstrations of Anatomy. In 1781, he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. On his return to his native country, he entered into an extensive practice in Virginia, and was long considered the most eminent surgeon of the Southern States. He was particularly distinguished for his accurate knowledge of anatomy. In the art of injecting, and making anatomical preparations, he is said to have been superior to any anatomist of his time. He died in 1814.—*Philadelphia Journal of Med. and Phys. Sciences*, iv. 186.

WALTER JONES, M. D. one of the most eminent physicians of our country, was born in Virginia, and received his medical education at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated about the year 1770. While at this institution he became a favourite of the school, and enjoyed the particular friendship and esteem of Cullen, and the other professors of that time. On his return to his native country, he settled in Northumberland county, Virginia, where he acquired an extensive practice, and sustained through life the highest standing both as a scholar and physician.

"He was," says a distinguished gentleman, who for some time enjoyed his acquaintance, "for the variety and extent of his learning, the originality and strength of his mind, the sagacity of his observations, and the captivating powers of his conversation, one of the most extraordinary men I have ever known. He was an accurate observer of nature and of human character, and seemed to possess the faculty of discerning the hidden cause of disease, and of applying, with a promptness and decision peculiar to himself, the appropriate remedies." For a few years he was returned a member of the national legislature; but he spent the most of his life in the practice of that profession of which he was so distinguished an ornament.

DAVID RAMSAY, M. D. one of the most distinguished scholars and physicians of whom our country can boast, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1749. He graduated at Princeton College, New-Jersey, in 1765, being only

sixteen years of age. He spent the two following years as a private instructor in a respectable family in Maryland; but in 1767, commenced the study of medicine with Dr. T. Bond of Philadelphia, and attended the medical lectures of the College. In 1772 he graduated Bachelor of Medicine, with the highest approbation of his teachers, by whom he was considered a young man of uncommon talents and attainments. He immediately commenced the practice of his profession in Maryland, but after one year removed to Charleston, South Carolina, where he lived till the time of his death in 1815.

Dr. R. was a short time surgeon in the revolutionary army, and served in that capacity at the siege of Savannah. In 1785, he was elected a member of Congress, and presided over that body for one year in place of John Hancock. Although he entered deeply into the cause of American liberty during the revolution, the most of his life was devoted to the practice of his profession, and to literary and scientific pursuits.

As an historical writer Dr. R. has been pronounced by competent judges to have held the highest rank. As a physician he was eminent, and ever commanded the confidence of his patients, and the admiration and esteem of his professional brethren. His medical writings, though not numerous, have reflected honour upon his country, and have disseminated much valuable information. They are, "an Account of the Soil, Climate, Weather, and Diseases of South Carolina;" "A Review of the Improvements, Progress, and State of Medicine in the Eighteenth Century;" "A Medical Register for 1802;" "A Dissertation on the Means of Preserving Health in Charleston;" and "A Eulogium on Dr. Rush."—*Smith's Continuation of Ramsay's History of the U. States.*

Note E.—Page 21.

The Medical Professorships of Harvard College were originally founded on the bequests of Dr. E. Hersey, and his widow; Dr. A. Hersey, John Cummings, and William Erving; all of which amounted to the sum of four thousand pounds sterling. But the institution has since received still greater aid from the munificence of the distinguished philanthropist, Ward Nicholas Boylston, Esq. who, above any other individual of our country, has devoted his wealth and his influence to the promotion of medical science. Soon after the founding of the school he presented to Harvard College an extensive medical library, and made permanent provision for its future enlargement. This library contains

many rare and expensive books and plates, and is one of the most valuable collections of medical works in the United States. It is to the influence of Mr. Boylston, also, that the school is indebted for a valuable cabinet of anatomical preparations, formerly the property of the celebrated Dr. Nichols, of England, by whose hand most of them were prepared. This cabinet has been enlarged by the liberality of Mr. E. H. Derby, who some time since presented a collection of wax preparations.

Note F.—Page 26.

Professors of the different Schools.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF PHILADELPHIA.

Until the year 1768, Drs. Shippin and Morgan were the only professors in the school. At this time Dr. Adam Kuhn, who had recently returned from Europe, where he had enjoyed the instructions of Linnæus, was appointed Professor of Botany and *Materia Medica*.

In June of this year, the first commencement was held for Bachelors of Medicine.

In 1769, Dr. Rush, who had just returned from Europe, was appointed Professor of Chemistry. At the commencement in June 1771, the degree of A. B. was conferred on seven, and the degree of M. D. on four students. The latter were the first Doctors of Medicine formed in America. In 1789, Dr. Morgan died, and Dr. Rush was elected professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic. Dr. Kuhn resigned his chair soon after, and Dr. Griffiths was elected to the chair of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, Dr. Barton to the chair of natural history and botany, and Dr. Wistar to the chairs of chemistry and the institutes of medicine. In 1791, the College and University, which had before been two bodies corporate, were united, and formed one school, under the name of the University. Dr. Hutchinson was appointed to the chair of chemistry, and Dr. Wistar adjunct professor of anatomy. In 1793, Dr. Hutchinson died, and Dr. Carsin was appointed to his place, but died in a few weeks after. Dr. Priestly was then elected professor of chemistry, but declined. In 1795, Dr. Woodhouse was elected to the chair of chemistry. In 1796, Dr. Griffiths resigned the chair of *materia medica*, and Dr. Barton was appointed to fill the place.

On the union of the two schools, Dr. Kuhn held the chair of the practice, and Dr. Rush that of the theory and institutes; but in 1797 Dr. Kuhn resigned entirely, and Dr. Rush was appointed to the chair of the practice, in 1805. The

same year Dr. Physick was appointed to the new and separate chair of surgery. In 1807 Dr. Dorsey was appointed adjunct professor of surgery. In 1808 Dr. Shippin died, and Dr. Wistar was appointed professor of anatomy and midwifery. In 1809 Dr. Woodhouse died, and Dr. Coxe was appointed to the chair of chemistry. In 1810 midwifery was separated from the anatomical chair, and Dr. James was appointed the professor of midwifery. In 1813 Dr. Rush died, and Dr. Barton was appointed to the chair of the institutes and practice of medicine, and Dr. Dorsey to the chair of *materia medica*. In 1815 Dr. Barton died, and Dr. Dorsey was appointed to his chair, and Dr. Chapman to the chair of *materia medica*. In 1818 Dr. Wistar died, and Dr. Dorsey was appointed professor of anatomy, Dr. Chapman professor of the institutes and practice of medicine, Dr. Coxe to the chair of *materia medica*, and Dr. Hare to the chair of chemistry. The same year Dr. Dorsey died, and Dr. Physick was appointed in 1819 professor of anatomy, and Dr. Gibson professor of surgery. In 1820 Dr. Horner was appointed adjunct professor of anatomy. —*Letter from Professor J. R. Coxe, 1825.*

The present faculty :

Philip Sing Physick, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

John Redman Coxe, M. D., Professor of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy.

Nathaniel Chapman, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Clinical Practice.

Thomas C. James, M. D., Professor of Midwifery.

Robert Hare, M. D., Professor of Chemistry.

William Gibson, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

William E. Horner, M. D., Adjunct Professor of Anatomy.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF NEW-YORK.

Wright Post, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

David Hosack, M. D., F. R. S., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Clinical Medicine.

Wm. J. M'Nevin, M. D., Professor of Chemistry.

Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D., F. R. S., Ed., Professor of Botany, and *Materia Medica*.

Valentine Mott, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

John W. Francis, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children.

Frederick G. King, M. D., Demonstrator of Anatomy,

David L. Rogers, M. D., Demonstrator of Surgery.

HARVARD COLLEGE.

- John C. Warren, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.
 John Gorham, M. D., Professor of Chemistry.
 Walter Channing, M. D., Professor of Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence.
 Jacob Bigelow, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.
 James Jackson, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

- Reuben D. Mussey, M. D., Professor of Anatomy, Surgery, and Obstetrics.
 Daniel Oliver, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, Physiology, and Materia Medica.
 J. Freeman Dana, M. D., Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Legal Medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND.

- John V. Davidge, M. D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.
 Nathaniel Potter, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.
 Elisha De Butts, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy.
 Granville Sharp Pattison, Esq., Professor of Anatomy.
 Samuel Baker, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.
 Richard W. Hall, M. D., Professor of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children.
 Maxwell M'Dowell, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

- Joseph White, M. D., President, and Professor of Surgery.
 Westel Willoughby, M. D., Vice President, and Professor of Obstetrics.
 James Hadley, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica.
 T. Romeyn Beck, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Medical Jurisprudence.
 James M'Naughton, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

YALE COLLEGE.

- Æneas Monson, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.
 Nathan Smith, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, Surgery, and Obstetrics.
 Benjamin Silliman, M. D., Professor of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Mineralogy and Geology.
 Eli Ives, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Botany, and Lecturer on the Diseases of Women and Children.
 Jonathan Knight, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, and Lecturer on Obstetrics.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF OHIO.

- Jedediah Cobb, M. D., Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Medicine.
 Elijah Slack, A. M., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
 John Moorhead, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Obstetrics.
 Jesse Smith, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.

VERMONT ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

- William Tully, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Medical Jurisprudence.
 Theodore Woodward, M. D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.
 William Anderson, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.
 Amos Eaton, Esq. Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and Lecturer on Natural History.
 Jonathan A. Allen, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.

TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY.

- Benjamin W. Dudley, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.
 Charles Caldwell, M. D., Professor of the Institutes and Clinical Medicine.
 Samuel Brown, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.
 Daniel Drake, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Medical Botany.

William H. Richardson, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics,
and the Diseases of Women and Children.
James Blythe, D. D., Professor of Chemistry.
Robert Best, Adjunct Professor of Chemistry.

BROWN UNIVERSITY.

Levi Wheaton, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic and Obstetrics.
John De Wolf, A. M., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
Usher Parsons, M. D., Professor of Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery.
Solomon Drown, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Botany.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

Parker Cleaveland, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica.
Nathan Smith, M. D., Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Surgery.
John D. Wells, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

John Bell, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Surgery.
William Paddock, M. D., Professor of Botany and Materia Medica.
Arthur L. Porter, M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
Nathan Smith, M. D., Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic and Surgery.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

John P. Batchelder, M. D., Professor of Surgery and Physiology.
Jerome V. C. Smith, M. D., Professor of General Anatomy and Physiology.
Henry H. Childs, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.
John De Lamatter, M. D., Professor of Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Obstetrics.
Chester Dewey, A. M. Professor of Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy, and Natural Philosophy.
Stephen W. Williams, M. D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

- John Edwards Holbrook, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.
 S. Henry Dickson, M. D., Professor of the Institutes and Practice of Physic.
 James Ramsay, M. D., Professor of Surgery.
 Thomas G. Prioleau, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics, and the Diseases of Women and Children.
 Henry Rutledge Frost, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.
 Edmund Ravenel, M. D., Professor of Chemistry.
 Stephen Elliot, LL. D., Professor of Botany and Natural History.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE.

- John Eberle, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice, and Clinical Medicine.
 George M'Lellan, M. D., Professor of Surgery.
 Jacob Green, A. M., Professor of Chemistry.
 B. Rush Rhees, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.
 F. S. Beattie, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Midwifery.
 Nathan R. Smith, M. D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

Note G.—Page 28.

A prize establishment exists in connexion with the Medical School of Harvard College, and bears the name of the "Boylston Prize Establishment," from having been founded by W. N. Boylston, Esq. the same gentleman whose name is introduced in a preceding note. In 1803, Mr. Boylston established a fund, the income of which, amounting to one hundred dollars annually, was originally divided into three, but since into two premiums, to be awarded to the writers of the best dissertations on such medical subjects as should be proposed. The questions are proposed, and the premiums awarded, by a committee appointed by the corporation of the University. Mr. Boylston has lived to see the utility of this establishment, eliciting the talents of medical gentlemen in different parts of the United States, to the discussion of some of the most important subjects that have ever been placed before the public. Several of the prize essays have been published, and have done honour to the medical character of our country.

The following is a list of the subjects of the dissertations for which premiums have been awarded, the names of their respective authors, and the period when adjudged :

- 1804. James Mann, M. D. "On Cholera Infantum."
- 1806. Do. "On Dysentery."
- George C. Shattuck, M. D. "On Mortification."
- 1807. Do. Do. "On the Structure and Physiology of the Skin."
- Do. Do. "On Biliary Concretions."
- 1808. Daniel Newcomb, M. D. "On Cancer, and the Best Mode of Extirpation."
- 1809. Jacob Bigelow, M. D. "On Cynanche Maligna."
- Do. "On Phthisis Pulmonalis."
- Thomas Sewall, M. D. "On Complaints in the Breasts of Nursing Women."
- 1811. Jacob Bigelow, M. D. "On the Best Mode of Treatment of Injuries occasioned by Fire, and other Heated Substances."
- George Hayward, M. D. "On Hydrocephalus."
- 1814. John F. Waterhouse, M. D. "On the Medical Uses of Carbonic Acid Gas."
- Do. Do. "On the Criteria by which to determine when the Use of Mercurials in the Cure of Syphilis should be discontinued."
- Enoch Hale, jun., M. D. "On the Reciprocal Changes which take place in the Blood, and in the Air, in the process of Respiration."
- 1815. John Ware, M. D. "On the Structure and Functions of the Urinary Apparatus."
- Abel L. Peirson, M. D. "On Bloodletting."
- J. Freeman Dana, M. D. "On the Tests of Arsenic."
- 1816. John Ware, M. D. "On Sweating as a Remedy in Diseases. How does it operate; in what cases should it be employed; and, to what extent or degree in each; and what are the best means of inducing this evacuation in the several cases in which it is adviseable?"
- J. Freeman Dana, M. D. "On the Composition of the Oxymuriatic Gas."
- 1818. John Ware, M. D. "On Hæmoptysis."
- 1819. Enoch Hale, jun. M. D. "Is there any Communication from the Stomach to the Bladder, more direct than that through the Circulating System and the Kidneys?"

1820. John Ware, M. D. "On the Best Means of Promoting Suppuration."
1820. William Sweetser, jun. M. D. "On the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cynanche Trachealis, or Croup."
1821. John C. Dalton, M. D. "On the Diseases of the Liver, both Functional and Organic."
- Enoch Hale, jun. M. D. "On the Introduction of Medicinal Substances into the Veins."
1822. Abel L. Peirson, M. D. "On Pertussis, or Chin Cough."
1823. William Sweetser, jun. M. D. on the Functions of the extreme Capillary Vessels, in Health and in Disease."
1824. Samuel Cartwright, M. D. "How long may the human body remain immersed in water without extinction of life; and at what period after immersion will it be useless to employ restorative means?"

It is quite possible that some names may have been omitted, as an official account could not be obtained of candidates who wrote between the years 1809 and 1814.

Mr. Boylston has recently established another prize fund, in connexion with the Boylston Medical Society, particularly for the medical class attending lectures in the University; and designed especially to improve young men in the style of writing on medical subjects. This institution has already produced very beneficial effects.

Note H.—Page 28.

In some of the earlier schools which were established in the country, the degree of Bachelor of Medicine was conferred on graduates, and that of Doctor was granted only as an honorary degree at a subsequent period. This was the case at Philadelphia, at Harvard, and at Dartmouth, and perhaps at some other schools. But the degree of Doctor of Medicine is the only one conferred in our schools at the present time.

Although there is no uniform standard of attainments established, in order to graduation, in most of our schools it is required, that before a student can be admitted to an examination for a degree, he must have attained to the age of twenty-one, have studied three years with some regular physician, attended two full courses of lectures on the different branches of medicine, and if he has not enjoyed the advantages of a collegiate education, he must furnish satisfactory evidence of having made respectable classical attainments;

and particularly that he has acquired a competent knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, has studied mathematics, natural and experimental philosophy, geography, and belles lettres. In several of our schools it is required that he shall have attended the clinical practice of some infirmary for a specified term. It is also required that before he can receive his degree, he must pass a close examination in the different branches of medicine, and write and defend a thesis on some medical subject.

Note I.—Page 29.

Number of Medical Students attending the last course of lectures at the different schools :

University of Pennsylvania,	- - - - -	480
College of Physicians and Surgeons of New-York,	- - - - -	196
Harvard College,	- - - - -	130
Dartmouth College,	- - - - -	80
University of Maryland,	- - - - -	215
College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of the State of New-York,	- - - - -	120
Yale College,	- - - - -	82
Medical College of Ohio,	- - - - -	22
Vermont Academy of Medicine,	- - - - -	124
Transylvania University,	- - - - -	235
Medical School of Maine,	- - - - -	60
Brown University,	- - - - -	40
University of Vermont,	- - - - -	42
Berkshire Medical School,	- - - - -	94
Medical College of South Carolina,	- - - - -	50
<hr/>		
Total,		1970

It will be seen that the preceding statement does not agree, in every instance, with those which have been published in the public journals; but the information here exhibited has been derived from one or more of the professors of each school, or from printed catalogues of the students.

Note K.—Page 31.

It was the intention to have given the date of the establishment of the different Medical Societies in the United States, and the names of the principal officers, with some account of the regulations of each; but, except in a few instances, such information could not be obtained.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, being the first that was established in the United States, and the model from which the societies of most of the other States have been formed, some details are given of this institution, which would otherwise have been withheld.

The officers of the Society consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, a Librarian, a Board of Counsellors, and a Board of Censors or Examiners. A meeting of the Society is held annually, at which its officers are elected, and a dissertation delivered by one of its fellows.

The Presidents, from the period of its first organization:

Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., 1782; William Kneeland, M. D., 1784; Edward A. Holyoke, M. D., 1786; Cotton Tufts, M. D., 1787; Samuel Danforth, M. D., 1795; Isaac Rand, M. D., 1798; John Warren, M. D., 1804; Joshua Fisher, M. D., 1815; John Brooks, M. D., 1823; James Jackson, M. D., 1825.

Those who have delivered the anniversary discourse:

Isaac Rand, M. D., "On Phthisis Pulmonalis and the Warm Bath," 1804.

John Warren, M. D., "On the Use and Effects of Mercury," 1805.

Joshua Fisher, M. D., "On Narcotic Substances," 1806.

Thomas Welsh, M. D., "On Heat and Cold as Agents on the Human Body," 1807.

John Brooks, M. D., "On Pulmonic Inflammation," 1808.

Aaron Dexter, M. D., "On Diseases of the Joints," 1809.

Josiah Bartlet, M. D., "On the Progress of Medical Science in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," 1810.

Oliver Fiske, M. D., "On Certain Epidemics in the Eastern part of this State," 1811.

Abram Haskell, M. D., "On Cynanche Trachealis," 1812.

Richard Hazeltine, M. D., "On Phlegmasia Dolens," 1816.

Hector Orr, M. D., "On Animal and Vegetable Life," 1817.

James Jackson, M. D., "On Fever," 1818.

John C. Warren, M. D., "On a Comparative View of the Sensorial and Nervous Systems of Men and Animals," 1820.

Nathaniel Bradstreet, M. D., "On the Proximate Cause of Fever," 1821.

John G. Coffin, M. D., "On Medical Education, and on the Medical Profession," 1822.

Henry H. Childs, M. D., "On the Advancement of Medical Science," 1823.

Robert Thaxter, M. D., "On Delirium Tremens," 1824.

John Dixwell, M. D., "An Eulogy on Hon. John Brooks, late President of the Society," 1825.

Nearly all these discourses have been published in the Transactions of the Society.

Note L.—Page 31.

The Medical Society of the State of New-Jersey, is the second which was instituted in the country, the original act for establishing which has been politely furnished by the Hon. L. Condit, of that State, and is here presented.

An Act to regulate the Practice of Physic and Surgery, within the State of New Jersey. Passed Nov. 29, 1783.

PREAMBLE.—Whereas, many ignorant and unskilful persons do take upon themselves to administer physic and surgery within this State, to the endangering of the lives and limbs of the good subjects of the same, who have been persuaded to become their patients: for the prevention of such abuses in future—

Section 1st,—Be it enacted, &c., That from and after the publication of this act, no person whatsoever shall administer physic, or practise surgery, in the State of New-Jersey, before he shall have been first examined, approved of, and admitted, by any two of the Justices of the Supreme Court of this State, for the time being, taking to their assistance, for such examination, two able and skilful practitioners in physic and surgery, who, after due examination and satisfactory proofs being given of such candidate's learning and skill, in physic or surgery, shall certify, under their hands and seals, or at least under the hands and seals of three of the said examiners, that the person applying is approved of, and ought to be admitted to practise as a physician or surgeon, or both, and shall give a testimonial of his examination and admission, in the form following, viz:—[Here follows the form.]

Section 2d, Prescribes a penalty of five pounds for practising without license. Provided, that this penalty do not extend to any skilful physician or surgeon sent for from any of the neighbouring States, on any particular occasion.

Section 3d, Prescribes a penalty of twelve pounds on any mountebank doctor, who shall erect a stage for the sale of drugs, or medicine of any kind.

Section 4th, Enacts, that every physician shall deliver his bill in plain English words, or as nearly so as possible; and that each bill shall be taxed by any Judge of the Supreme Court, or of the Court of Common Pleas, if the patient shall require it.

This act has since been revised by the Legislature of the State, and the Medical Society of New-Jersey is now regulated by provisions similar to those of the Society of Massachusetts.

Note M.—Page 32.

Although the Medical Societies of the different States are all instituted on the same general plan, and for the same objects, there is a variation in the powers of their charters. In some of the States, persons who are not licensed are permitted to practise, and are allowed the benefit of the law to enforce the payment of their fees. In other States such unqualified persons are denied the benefit of the law; and, in some of the States, a severe penalty is inflicted for prescribing medicine without a license. The good effects of the latter regulation are strikingly exemplified, in the exemption of Maryland and the District of Columbia, from those quacks and impostors which are still found in some other parts of our country.

Note N.—Page 32.

The New York Medical Repository was the first Medical Journal published in the United States, and was commenced in that city in 1797, by the joint labours of Doctors Samuel L. Mitchell, Edward Miller, and Elihu H. Smith. Since the commencement of this work, a succession of periodical journals have been established, among which are :

The Philadelphia Medical and Physical Journal,	
commenced in - - - - -	1804
Philadelphia Medical Museum, in - - - - -	1805
Baltimore Medical and Physical Recorder, in - -	1808
New-York Medical and Philosophical Journal and Review, in - - - - -	1809
American Medical and Philosophical Register, (at New-York,) in - - - - -	1810
The American Mineralogical Journal, (at New-York,) in - - - - -	1810
Eclectic Repertory, (at Philadelphia,) in - - -	1811
Baltimore Medical and Philosophical Lyceum, in -	1811
New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery, (at Boston,) in - - - - -	1812

American Medical Recorder, (at Philadelphia,) in	1818
Philadelphia Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences, in	1820
American Journal of Science and Arts, (New-Haven,) in	1821
New York Medical and Physical Journal, in	1822
Western Medical Reporter, (at Cincinnati, Ohio,) about	1822
Hartford Analectic Journal of Medicine and Surgery, in	1823
Boston Medical Intelligencer, in	1823
Medical Review and Analectic Journal, (at Philadelphia,) in	1824
New-York Monthly Chronicle of Medicine and Surgery, in	1824
Carolina Journal of Medicine, Science, and Agriculture, (at Charleston,) in	1825

These publications have, in general, been well sustained, and while they have been useful in disseminating medical information, and in exciting a more general taste for reading and inquiry, they have called forth the talents of physicians in every part of the United States, in exploring the medical topography of the country, investigating the causes of its epidemic and endemic diseases, examining its animal, vegetable, and mineral productions ; and in publishing the results of their observations and discoveries to the world. They have thus been among the most efficient means of advancing medical science, and elevating the character of the profession. Several of the Journals which have been established are discontinued, and others have assumed a different title. Twelve only are published at the present time, though five more are soon to be added to this number.

Note O.—Page 36.

Although medical science in the United States is beginning to assume a consistent and elevated character, as evinced by the extension of medical schools and societies through the country, the character of our elementary works and periodical journals, as well as by the spirit which generally pervades the profession ; yet it may not be unimportant to suggest, whether a closer and more extensive alliance among our institutions, and the more scientific members of the profession, may not be expedient, to ensure a full developement of such cheering indications.

Could not an association be instituted, which, while it should impart stimulus to individual enterprise, might serve as a grand repository of the science and literature of the profession; and impress on all our institutions, that uniformity in their organization and management, which is necessary to give a fixed and national character to the medical profession of our country?

A bare allusion is here made to this subject, not presuming even to sketch the outlines of the plan, leaving that higher office to an abler pen.